

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

President
Major General F.A.H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL
Chairman
Lieutenant Colonel H.R.D. Hill, MBE
Secretary
Major P.G.E. Hill



Regimental Headquarters
The Queen's Regiment
(Queen's Surreys Office)
Portsmouth Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey

May, 1973

News Letter No. 13

Editorial

Readers will remember that the presentation of new Colours to The Queen's Regiment was to have been made last year by His Majesty King Frederik of Denmark, as Allied Colonel-in-Chief. Unfortunately His Majesty died in January 1972 and the presentation was postponed. Hopes that the presentation would take place this year have not been fulfilled. The Regimental Committee decided on a further postponement when it was learned that neither the Allied Colonels-in-Chief nor other Royalty who were approached would be able to present Colours in 1973 on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

The Regular Battalions concerned are the 1st, 2nd and 3rd, the 4th Battalion, formerly The Middlesex Regiment is to be disbanded on 1st November, 1973, sad to relate. It is now hoped they will receive their new Colours in 1974 but whether this will be to all three battalions collectively, or individually to units in their respective stations remains to be seen.

News of all battalions, Regular, Volunteer and Cadet, can be read in the Regimental Journal, which is now published twice yearly, in March and September by Regimental Headquarters, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent. The subscription is £1 a year.

Honours and Awards

Mr T. A. Whitmore (6084562) who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1930 to 1938 has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal on completion of 34 years Government service. He has been with 34 Central Workshops REME for 21 years.

On 6th September, 1972, the British Empire Medal for services to Surrey Army Cadet Force was conferred upon Mr Thomas F. Dunkley by Maj-Gen F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL, at Surrey ACF HQ at Guildford. Mr Dunkley, an ex-Regular soldier, joined Surrey ACF in 1949.

Appointments—Officers

Brigadier R. S. N. Mans, CBE, is to assume the appointment of Deputy Quarter Master General, Minis-

try of Defence, on 1st September, 1973, in the rank of Major General. He has also been nominated to succeed Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL, as Deputy Colonel (Surrey) The Queen's Regiment and President of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association in October 1973, General Ling having been nominated to succeed Lieutenant General Sir Richard Craddock, KBE, CB, DSO, as Colonel of The Queen's Regiment.

Regimental Association

Accounts

The accounts of the Regimental Association for the year ended 31st December, 1973, were audited by Messrs Menzies Middleton & Hawkins, Chartered Accountants of Kingston-upon-Thames and passed at a meeting of the Managing Trustees on 24th March, 1973.

The state of the funds as at 31st December, 1972, is summarised below.

Name of Fund	Accumulated Funds		Excess of Income over Expenditure	
	1972	1971	1972	1971
Queen's Surreys				
Charitable	5,867	5,453	322	212
Queen's Charitable	40,398	37,369	426	577
Surreys Charitable	21,434	19,046	514	378
Queen's War Memorial	14,016	13,828	353	265
Surreys War Memorial	10,231	10,143	88	108
Main	2,021	1,773	201	82
Reunion	1,062	1,033	29	—

Benevolent Work of the Regimental Association

The number of grants made in 1972 was less than last year, but the size of individual grants was greater. The War Memorial Funds were set up to help people to take holidays and these grants are particularly advantageous to people with young families.

As usual, we are grateful to all those organisations who help us in visiting and reporting on our cases, particularly SSAFA and the Forces Help Society.

Annual Cathedral Service

The Annual Service of the Regimental Association will be held in Guildford Cathedral at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday, 17th June, 1973, and will be conducted by the Dean, the Very Reverend A. C. Bridge. The sermon

will be preached by the Chaplain General, the Venerable Archdeacon J. R. Youens, CB, OBE, MC, Chaplain to the Queen.

All past members of our former Regiments and present members of The Queen's Regiment, and their families are invited to attend. Medals should be worn by those in possession, and it would be a help to the ushers (provided by the Surrey Army Cadet Force) if Regimental ties are worn.

There are ample car parking facilities at the Cathedral. The only bus from Guildford bus station to arrive in time for the Service leaves at 10.05 a.m. The bus returns to Guildford from the Cathedral at 18 minutes past the hour.

A Regimental Tent is being erected outside the Cathedral. There will be a bar, organised by Lieut Colonel R. E. Pounds, MBE, Headquarters, Surrey Cadet Force.

Reunion

The Annual Reunion will be held at the Drill Hall, Portsmouth Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, from 1830 to 2300 hrs on Saturday, 6th October, 1973. The function is for men only. The cost of admission is 50p, whether or not supper is taken.

Members are requested to submit the enclosed warning-in slip, with remittance, by not later than Monday, 1st October. Tickets will be issued by the Secretary. Members are particularly asked *not* to buy their tickets at the door.

Production of the ticket will entitle the holder to a buffet supper, except for those who buy their tickets after 1st October. This restriction is to avoid ordering more food than is required.

In the interests of security members are reminded that:

1. the ticket is a means of identity and it is therefore important to bring it;
2. cars must not be parked against or alongside the Drill Hall and connected buildings.

News Letter

The audited accounts for 1972 show that there was again an excess of expenditure over income. The principal facts are that we received £239 from sales, subscriptions and donations. The printing cost £256 and postage £41.

The Main Committee of the Regimental Association, meeting on 24th March, 1973, therefore approved an increase to 50p in the News Letter subscription for 1974.

This latest small increase in the cost of the News Letter can only be regarded as a stopgap measure. We cannot go on running the News Letter at a loss. If we are to continue publication, the alternatives seem to be:

1. reduce the letter to the bare minimum of news of events, both past and forthcoming. This would eliminate the little items on our members under "From Here and There", articles of Regimental interest, reminiscences of operations

in both World Wars, correspondence and Deaths and Obituaries;

2. maintain the present style, and increase the price to cover expenses;
3. maintain the present style and only publish once a year.

The views of our readers would be appreciated.

Freedom of the Borough of Guildford

The 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment will be exercising the privilege of the Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Guildford on Wednesday, 30th May, 1973, between 1130 and 1230 hours.

The Battalion will be represented by a Company Group preceded by the Battalion's Band and Drums, and followed by Mortar and Anti-tank detachments mounted on vehicles. The Company Group will act as Guard to the Colours.

The route will be: Civic Hall, Dene Road—London Road—High Street (East)—North Street—Millbrook (North)—High Street—London Road—Civic Hall. The salute will be taken by the Mayor of Guildford at the Guildhall, High Street (opposite Tunsgate) at 1200 hours.

Depot The Queen's Division Open Day

The Divisional Depot is holding its Open Day this year on Saturday, 16th June. Bassingbourn Barracks is located 3 miles north of Royston by the A.14 Royston—Huntingdon road and is well signposted.

The Barracks will be open to the public from 1000 to 1700 hrs. There will be a number of interesting displays and competitions and also performances by the Junior Soldiers Band and Drums. A wide variety of exhibits from many branches of the Army will be on view.

A cold buffet lunch costing 50p will be available. It would assist catering arrangements if tickets were purchased in advance from the Exhibition Co-ordinator, Depot The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts SG8 5LX.

Military Bands

There are two displays of military pageantry this summer which will be of interest to our readers. Both displays are in aid of Service charities.

The Massed Bands of the Royal Marines will Beat Retreat on Horse Guards at 6.45 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th June, in honour of the birthday of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, who will take the salute. Tickets are obtainable from Advance Box Office, 155 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0EE, as follows:

Preview 12th June Seats 50p Standing 20p
Ceremony 13th June Seats £1 Standing 25p

At Wembley Stadium on Saturday, 7th July, more than a thousand Army musicians—massed bands, corps of drums and pipers, with horses and guns—will take

Regimental and other Service Functions in 1973

Date	Place	Function
Sat. 12 May	Guildford	5th Queen's OMA Annual Reunion
Fri. 18 May	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Match v Royal Marines
Sat. 19 May	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association AGM and Annual Dinner
Wed. 30 May	Guildford	Freedom of Entry March by 1 Queen's
Wed. 13 June	Horse Guards	Royal Marines Beat Retreat
Fri. 15 June	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Cocktail Party
Sat. 16 June	Bassingbourn	Queen's Divisional Depot Open Day
Sun. 17 June	Guildford	Regimental Association Annual Cathedral Service
Sat. 7 July	Wembley	Military Musical Pageant
Sun. 9 Sept.	Henley Park	A Coy 5(V) Queen's Family Shoot
Thu. 4 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting
Fri. 5 Oct.	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Annual Dinner
Sat. 6 Oct.	Kingston	Regimental Association Annual Reunion
Sat. 13 Oct.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association Ladies Dinner and Dance
Sun. 11 Nov.	Kingston and Guildford	Remembrance Day Parades
Sat. 1 Dec.	Guildford	A Coy 5(V) Queen's Christmas Dance
Sat. 15 Dec.	Guildford	A Coy 5(V) Queen's Christmas Draw

part in a spectacle of colour and pageantry. Seats are priced at £2.50, £2.00, £1.50, £1.00 and 50p and there are special party rates. They are obtainable from the Box Office, Wembley Stadium, Middlesex.

News of the Associations

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association

Since the issue of the last News Letter in November the Association have held their usual monthly meetings, a Christmas Draw and the Sobraon Ball. The Christmas Draw was well attended and the Committee responsible for running this did a fine job producing some 125 prizes for those who purchased tickets. The refreshments were provided by the members' wives and the spread produced was excellent.

The Sobraon Ball provided another night of entertainment. Some 300 members, their wives and friends attended. We were fortunate on this occasion to secure the services of the Surrey Yeomanry Dance Band whose excellent performance ensured that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We were honoured to have as our guests Brigadier and Mrs G. R. P. Roupell together with Colonel and Mrs P. G. F. M. Roupell. Our thanks go to Chic Evans and his lady helpers who ran an excellent raffle.

We would like to see any old members of 1st and 2nd

Queen's Sergeants Mess at our monthly socials which are held on the last Saturday in the month. Tiny Kidson who joins us on these occasions would like to meet some of his old comrades.

It is with deep regret that we report the death of John Henry Akers, aged 78 who served in 24th London Regiment (The Queen's) from August 1914 to 1919 when he enlisted as a Regular in the Queen's. He then served in the 2nd Bn until 1937.

2/4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment OCA

The 44th Annual Reunion Dinner was held at Mitcham Road Barracks on Saturday, 28th April, 1973, and was attended by a good gathering of Old Comrades. The President, Capt P. C. Duncan, MC, QC, was unfortunately unable to be present, and the Chair was taken by Maj Gen F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL.

The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

During the winter months our normal activities have been on a reduced scale and there is very little news worth recording from this area apart from our Reunion Dinner last November of which I understand Colonel Nice is producing an account. Like Col Nice I was lucky enough to visit Canada last year. I went with my wife to see our youngest son. During the course of the trip we paid a visit to The Queen's York Rangers at their magnificent Armoury in Toronto. There we were entertained in style in as much that their RSM

CWO Bill Cochran did us the honours. I must say that they are proud of their former affiliation to the Queen's and would very much like to renew past friendships. A tour of old Fort York was also included together with a call at the HQ of the RCNVR nearby, plus a trip on Lake Ontario aboard their launch. All this was followed by an evening in the Sergeants Mess made it a very memorable day. The Rangers send their kindest regards to those who have served and are still serving as Queen's.

2/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment

The Twenty-Seventh Reunion Dinner was held on 31st March at the Stag, Bessenden Place, S.W.1, and was attended by some 65 old comrades. It was much regretted that the President, Brig A. P. Block, CB, CBE, DSO, was unable to attend due to ill-health and a telegram was sent to his home conveying the respect and affection of all ranks with best wishes for his early recovery.

The chair was taken by Brig M. E. M. MacWilliam, CBE, DSO, MC, supported by the ever faithful Lt-Col Cecil Falk, MC, TD, and such old Regulars as RSM Gary Lockwood, DCM, CSMs Jim Saggs and Reg Pemberton and Sgt H. Dook. Of the younger generation Colonels Toby Sewell and David Blum continued the tradition of service.

In his report the Chairman of the Dinner Club, Hugh Scammell, MC, reminded members that it was 30 years to the week since the Battalion had left Kirkuk in Iraq on the long march to join battle at Enfidaville in Tunisia. He was glad that despite the years between everyone still continued to look just the same and hoped the Reunion would continue to keep up its members for many years to come.

23rd London/42nd RTR Regimental Association

The following extracts are taken from the Chairman's Report for the year 1972/73.

Since my last report we have had a change of President. Colonel Martin, so actively connected with the Regiment for so many years, as Coy Commander, Regt 2IC, Comdg Officer (twice), Hon Colonel, and lastly President of our Association, decided that the time had arrived to retire from office. Therefore in accordance with his wish, the office of President was offered to Colonel W. J. Wykes, MBE, TD, another long-standing officer of the Regiment, and was accepted.

The Annual dinner held on 4th November, 1972, was a very pleasant and successful event. After dinner speeches were all up to standard and of sufficient brevity. We were pleased to have Major Arthur Flint with us on this occasion, which coincided with a visit to London from his home in Glamorganshire.

The 1972 Givenchy/Gazala party was an even greater success than the previous ones. This I am sure was due to a very late change of venue due to circumstances beyond our control. Being unable to use the clubroom at Elverton St, we were most fortunate in that Col Wykes stepped in and offered the use of the club facilities of the Ranelagh Sailing club at Putney. Our sincere thanks are due to him and his club committee and the ladies

who worked to make our evening the enjoyable occasion it turned out to be. We shall be going there again this year on 1st June, the nearest date available to the Givenchy anniversary. We were especially pleased to see ex-Sgt Doug Bullock from Ashford, Kent, and also Colonel Vic Senior, MC, RTR (Rtd) and Mrs Senior. Colonel Vic was a Sgt in "B" Sqn 42nd RTR in the Desert campaign and was commissioned out there along with others, and was awarded an MC whilst serving with 41st RTR.

Attendance at St Mary's Battersea for Remembrance Day service was good, 27 members and ladies being present. On this occasion we were most gratified to see at long last our Regimental Colours hung in their permanent resting place. They hang from the gallery each side of the clock facing the altar and above the War Memorial.

Our thanks are due to Colonel Wykes who undertook the task of contacting and conveying the Colours to the Royal School of Needlework for cleaning and netting, etc., and to Colonel Buchanan, Colonel McConnell, and other trustees of Queen's Surreys Fund who defrayed the cost of the necessary expenditure. We still have the memorial plaques in the front hall at 27 St John's Hill to deal with.

The Queen's Regiment

News of the Regular Battalions

After another four months tour in Northern Ireland, the 1st Battalion returned to Bulford in mid-February. The Battalion had its share of casualties, but accounted for six IRA members killed.

The following is an extract from an article reprinted in the Regimental Journal of March 1973. The writers were journalists from the Eastbourne Gazette and the Woking News and Mail who visited the Battalion in Belfast.

"We were frankly amazed by the Army's intense security measures. We had no idea that the men of 1 Queen's worked anything up to an 18-hour day, week in, week out. We knew nothing of the constant patrolling of trouble spots, of the thorough-going intelligence network, the constantly manned observation posts, daily bomb scares, frequent house searches and occasional uplifting arms and ammunition finds. We were impressed by the superb discipline and good humour of the men in the face of jibes and insults from the very people they are trying to protect."

The 2nd Battalion is now back in BAOR after a short tour in Londonderry, during which they were visited by the Prime Minister.

The 3rd Battalion has been in Cyprus since early November, where they form part of the United Nations peace-keeping force.

Albuhera Company, 4 Queen's, all that remains of the former Middlesex Regiment, is due to be disbanded towards the end of this year.

6th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment

The following article has been contributed by Lieutenant Colonel D. G. Wilson, TD, Commanding Officer of the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment which is the successor to the Territorial Battalions of our former Regiments.

"I believe it is time the News Letter carried some notes on the TA, or Volunteers as we now call ourselves, and on the 6th Bn The Queen's Regiment in particular. Anyone not closely connected with the TA could well be forgiven for asking 'What did happen to 6 Queen's Cadre?' Well, here is the answer.

"The days of 6 Queen's Cadre (one each of the following ranks: Major, Capt, Lt, WOII, C/Sgt, Sgt, Cpl, Pte) came to an end on 31st March, 1971, and the 6th Bn Queen's Regiment (Volunteers) was formed on 1st April, 1971. The Cadre were to form Bn HQ and HQ Coy of the new battalion, the remaining companies being formed as follows:—

A Coy (Edgware) from the Cadre of 10 Queen's (Middx)

B Bty (Islington) from the Greater London Regiment RA Cadre

C Bty (Camberwell Green) from the London and Kent Regiment RA Cadre

D Bty (Sutton) from the Surrey Yeomanry Cadre

"To those who are still interested and not yet 'lost' you will have noticed 'Batteries' and 'RA' creeping in to the above. What was all this about? In order to preserve the identities of previous Regiments, and there being no requirement for Gunners in the Home Defence role allotted to the new battalion for London, they have changed to Infantry (in some cases reverted). This posed cap badge problems, but after 18 months of three cap badges in the Battalion (an RSM's nightmare), on 26th November last a parade was held at which the Queen's cap badge was adopted by all those on parade not already wearing one.

"Personalities are interesting, and from the Cadre Capt Barry Sidwell is now 2IC of D Bty, Lt(QM) Alf Colyer became Capt(QM) but has now left us for his old love, the SAS. CSM Shearing became the Battalion's Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant, and C/Sgt Double-day became Armourer C/Sgt REME. Cpl Adams became MT Cpl, but alas age has now caught up with him, and he is now Mr Adams.

"From a posted in strength on 1st April, 1972, of 26 all ranks, we are now over 50% of establishment and are 270 strong. This is not good looked at nationwide, with Battalions across the tartan border being 110% of establishment, but for the London area is quite an achievement. Best recruited company is 'A' Coy at Edgware who are 65. Bn HQ is over establishment as only 29 are required, but we aim for three rifle platoons as well. Bn HQ is in Wandsworth, and all who call themselves 'Queen's Surreys' will be welcomed at any time.

"Camps have been held at Folkestone and Stanford PTA and this year we go to Warcop. The Battalion have had many visitors but are very proud to have been visited by Lt-Gen Sir Richard Craddock, Colonel of the

Regiment, and Maj-Gen Fergus Ling, Deputy Colonel Queen's Regiment (Surrey). Also we were visited by the Lord Mayor of London, Lord Mais, who fitted us into a very full programme, and we are to be asked to take part in this year's Lord Mayor's Show. I wonder how many battalions two years old have received this distinction?"

Surrey Army Cadet Force

The 1972 Tetrathlon was held for the second year running at Caterham Barracks on 21st and 22nd October, 1972. Teams of three cadets from Detachments from the Surrey Battalions competed in shooting, swimming, athletics and cross country. Previously Surrey ACF had held separate meetings for these various sports spread throughout the year. The new concept permits not only participation by the average cadet, resulting in heightened enthusiasm and greater numbers taking part, but also a saving in time and travel.

However, the County still runs separate boxing and football competitions as it was found difficult to incorporate these into the programme on a single weekend of concentrated activities.

The results of the tetrathlon events were spread throughout the three Cadet Battalions as follows.

Event	Detachment	Winner
Shooting	Ash	5 Cadet Bn
Swimming	Yorktown	2 Cadet Bn
Athletics	St Peters	5 Cadet Bn
Cross Country	Elstead	5 Cadet Bn
Event	Detachment	Runner-up
Shooting	Leatherhead	1 Cadet Bn
Swimming	Elstead	5 Cadet Bn
Athletics	Yorktown	2 Cadet Bn
Cross Country	Leatherhead	1 Cadet Bn

The overall winners by a very close margin were St Peters Detachment 5 Cadet Bn 11,979 points and the runners-up Yorktown Detachment 2 Cadet Bn 11,972 points.

The individual winners were:

Class A (under 14)	Cpl Coulson, Farncombe Detachment 5 Cadet Bn
Class B (under 15)	Cdt Storey, Yorktown Detachment 2 Cadet Bn
Class C (over 15)	L/c Phillips, Yorktown Detachment 2 Cadet Bn

The Tetrathlon was organised by Lieut-Colonel H. A. Privett, County Sports Officer, assisted by Adults from County HQ and the three Cadet Battalions.

From Here and There

RSM of the old boys

We are indebted to the editor of SOLDIER, the British Army Magazine, for permission to reproduce this article which was published in their March 1973 issue.

"Mr Jim Ives left in January after 19 years in his 'village'. For it is as a village that he saw the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where for nearly two decades he served as regimental sergeant-major of the 400 in-pensioners."

"What has impressed me most over the years is that this is like a little village right in the middle of London," he said. "Here everyone is friendly and kind. One thing that always strikes me here is the old-time courtesy."

Mr Ives has been in uniform since 1925 when he enlisted in the 23rd London Regiment. Now 66, he is still in uniform—as a security officer at the royal enclosure, Ascot, a part-time job which will fill in the time when he is not tending his large garden in Sutton, Surrey.

In 1926 he joined The East Surrey Regiment and during World War Two was a prisoner of the Japanese and worked on the infamous railway. He left the Army in 1954, later that year to become the Royal Hospital's regimental sergeant-major.

The in-pensioners' club was his pride and joy. He saw it grow from one recreation room to a three-room complex and, as chairman of the committee running it, spearheaded the many improvements that have made it a success.

But there is more to being regimental sergeant-major at Chelsea than just administration and discipline. Mr Ives explained: "Here there's no Army manual—you've got to get by on your personality. You must always be prepared to listen to anything a man comes and tells you otherwise they think you're not taking an interest. I've always made a point of knowing all their names and faces and a little bit about each fellow. They're a jovial lot. Discipline and esprit de corps go hand in hand here."

Back to School

Major Jack Schofield, MBE, TD, a well-known figure in three of our Territorial battalions until his retirement in 1968, writes,

"Since leaving the Regiment I have not been exactly idle. I have been a part-time student at Hatfield Polytechnic for four years and I managed to pass my examinations and get a BSc in Applied Chemistry. I was the oldest student ever at the Poly., and in the Chemistry Department I was older than any of the lecturers, including the Head of Department. Although it was hard graft doing the work, it was great fun. I had a students union card and was known as Jack throughout the College."

Jack Schofield has also found time to become the Deputy Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade for Hertford and he has been appointed to the Order of St. John, Fourth Class.

CANLOAN

In the last issue of the News Letter Colonel C. H. Nice referred to the scheme whereby some 26 Canadian officers served in 131 (Queen's) Bde in the last year of the 1939-45 War. He suggested representatives of the

former Queen's battalions might like to liaise with the Canloan Army Officers Association so that when ex-Canloan officers visit this country they have the address of someone in their former Queen's battalion.

Conversely, some of our members visiting Canada may be glad of an opportunity to look up their Canloan friends. The address of the Secretary of the Canloan Officers Association National Council is

Mr Arthur Connor
57 Deerfield Road
Scarborough
Ontario
Canada

Space does not permit printing the addresses of the 18 officers supplied by Colonel Nice, but the Editor will be glad to send them to readers inquiring.

Badges

Mr Harry Skilton, late The East Surrey Regiment, recently bought a blazer badge from the firm of D. J. Parkinson, 124 Valley Drive, Brighton BN1 5FF, Sussex. He was very pleased with the workmanship and writes as follows.

"I wrote to D. J. Parkinson and within a week was the proud possessor of a really nice hand sewn badge—in fact, the nicest I've ever seen. It is possible someone else will enquire, and I thought I ought to recommend this firm. They also do scarves, ties, plaques and car badges, so I hope this information may help someone."

Padre's Progress

In News Letter No. 11 of May 1972 we informed our readers that the Reverend Peter Mallet, SCF, who was chaplain to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Malaya from 1954-1957, had been appointed Senior Chaplain to the Forces in Northern Ireland. It now gives us the greatest of pleasure to announce that Peter Mallet was appointed Assistant Chaplain General, BAOR, in January 1973.

Calling the 608s

Mr Thomas Albert Whitmore (6084562) would like to hear from any old 608 comrades who served with him in China and India in 1st Queen's between 1930 and 1938. Mr Whitmore lives at 32 Baldwin Webb Avenue, Donington, Telford, Salop, TF2 8SE.

Regimental Histories in the "Famous Regiments" series

We are fortunate that the history of both our former Regiments has been so well recorded in Leo Cooper's "Famous Regiments" series. Jock Haswell's history of The Queen's Royal Regiment has been in publication for some years now, but copies are still obtainable from the Regimental Association.

Michael Langley's more recent history of The East Surrey Regiment has been selling well. The book is obtainable from the Regimental Association The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment for £1.75, post free.

Villiers Marines

In 1972 a souvenir philatelic cover was produced by Stamp Publicity (Worthing) Ltd to commemorate the

270th Anniversary of the formation of The East Surrey Regiment. The cover bore a coloured picture of a soldier of Villiers Marines painted by the well-known military artist, Charles C. Stadden.

Reproductions of the original painting mounted and framed 8 in x 6½ in, but not glazed, have been in demand. They cost 27p post free, and are obtainable from the Regimental Association, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames.

Chinese Labour Corps

During the 1914-18 War, the British recruited a force of 100,000 Chinese in the Chinese Labour Corps. Mr M. B. Summerskill of 1 South Eaton Place, London, S.W.1, is writing a history of the Chinese Labour Corps and would like to hear from anyone who has documents or photographs relating to the services of the Corps.

News from Down Under

Lieut-Colonel T. J. Kilshaw, MC, who served in 1/6th Queen's from Alamein to North West Europe sends his kindest remembrances to old friends. The Colonel lives at 22 Marine Parade, Avalon Beach, NSW 2107, Australia, and he would be delighted to hear from anyone who served with him.

Mr John R. F. Smith, who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1941 to 1946, emigrated to Australia in 1961, and is now general manager of the company which produces the paper on which Australian stamps are printed. He writes, "You will be horrified to know that in the near future there will be no more stamps in Australia printed with the Queen's head. Despite an over-all impression which you might have, most Australians still have a soft spot for the old country, and I think it will be a long time before this changes."

Correspondence

The British Battalion

The following letter, written in Belfast last December, has been received from Capt R. T. W. Mellotte, Adjutant of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment.

"Dear Sir,

I was particularly interested to read in the last News Letter the letter to General Ling from Colonel Pallot, as I had just initiated our annual exchange of signals with Tiger Company 4th Royal Anglian, the Royal Leicesters' direct successors.

Some of your readers may wish to be assured that each year without fail we recall our connection with the 1st Leicesters. Besides the exchange of signals a Special Order of the Day is published and the health of the British Battalion is toasted in the Officers Mess (although the latter was not possible this year in Belfast).

Our signal read, 'CO and all ranks send greetings for 20th December remembering the formation of the British Battalion in 1941. Appropriately this is the 31st Anniversary'. In reply to which we received, '17th Foot greet the 2nd/31st Foot as we remember our former comrades of the British Battalion'.

Perhaps, however, it would be only honest to admit that I personally cemented the relationship between the two Regiments by marrying the daughter of a distinguished Tiger, Colonel Ken Goldschmidt! It was wholly appropriate therefore that on this occasion my brother-in-law, who is second in command of Tiger Company was able to reciprocate our signal.

Yours faithfully,

R. T. W. Mellotte."

A signaller's recollections

The moment of acute depression at being "put into the bag" is well recorded in this letter from Mr E. N. Collier (6139911), a signaller in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1940.

"I was with the 1st Battalion from March 1935 when I arrived in Fyzabad until the evening of the 22nd May, 1940, at the Escaut, when I with two other signallers, L/Cpl Webster and Pte Down, were taken prisoner.

We had been equipping the alternative Bn HQ with signal gear, then the enemy put down a fierce barrage on our position. Shortly after the start of this a Northumberland Fusiliers Vickers MG kept raking a wall about two foot above our heads and each time it traversed, we were well and truly pinned down. We had decided to make a dash for it to Bn HQ when things eased but the opportunity did not present itself. As we went to make a move we found the enemy on top of us and around us in strength, and I with a Tommy gun pressing into my stomach, held by a very nervous Wehrmacht gentleman wearing steel rimmed spectacles.

Shortly after this we met Major Bruce and his carrier driver. Major Bruce's first words to us were 'Poor Mr Taylor, losing three of his signallers'. We were marched away at this point. I know I had a great sense of fed-upness at this moment having reckoned on the bare possibility of stopping one, but being a POW had never come into the reckoning.

After this the various experiences of five years in the bag.

Whilst on demob leave I joined the telephone service and am still there, my years in the Regiment have served me well. I now control a happy efficient unit. Also in the telephone service is ex-Pte Bob Giddings, a National Service man, who joined us in France during the winter of 39/40 and who went through every action of the 1st Bn right to the end without a scratch. He is as willing and even-tempered as ever."

Battalion flash

Mr H. E. Winder of 9 Ashford Road, Parkwood, Johannesburg, South Africa, writes

"When I was gazetted to the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1918 as lieutenant, a strange story—a semi-order—got around that the Regiment was to wear a flash in Regimental colours similar to that worn by the Welch Regiment, except that the latter is black, to indicate the Regiment's origin as a regiment of Marines.

I believe the idea originated with the CO of the 8th Battalion. I never put it up myself, but I have a faint recollection of seeing someone wearing it. At the time I thought it quite a good innovation, but without it coming through in Orders, of course one couldn't adopt the idea."

Mr Winder's recollection was put to Lt-Col A. P. B. Irwin, DSO, who commanded the 8th Surreys from June 1916 to November, 1918, and he has replied as follows

"I cannot claim to have had anything to do with the idea of a flash. We were ordered by Division to wear a yellow patch on our haversacks on 1st July, 1916 (the first day of the Battle of the Somme) to distinguish ourselves as of the 18 Division. Also I had a crimson band painted on our helmets, for which I cannot remember having any authority from Brigade or Division, and a little later on we were ordered to wear crimson shoulder patches."

Can any reader throw any light on this subject?

Regimental History— The Queen's Royal Regiment

1st Queen's in the Battle of the Lys in April 1918

The following account has been taken from a longer narrative in the Regimental archives written by Mr V. E. Fagence. At the time of these operations he was a private in 12 Platoon, C Company of the 1st Queen's.

"The enemy opened his offensive at Armentières on 9th April, 1918, his ultimate objective being an advance to the coast and the capture of the Channel Ports. By the end of the first day he had advanced to a depth of four miles on a ten mile front, extending from Bois Grenier in the north to La Bassée in the south, the furthest point of his advance westwards being the village of Estaires.

We in the 1st Queen's did not know all this at the time, but during the night of 10th/11th April we were moved into a camp of huts about half a mile in rear of Meteren and some ten miles west of Armentières. The village of Meteren was under continuous shellfire all night.

The morning of the 12th dawned fine and sunny, and as the sun climbed higher in the sky it became quite warm, more like summer than spring. We could get very little news, except for a rumour that the Germans had broken through at Messines Ridge, about ten miles to the north-east of where we were. But the whole of our Division (the 33rd) was apparently still being held in reserve by the Higher Command. The enemy continued to shell the village of Meteren during the morning, then

at about 12.45 pm a squadron of six German aeroplanes flew over and circled our camp. They were flying low so that they must have been able to see quite plainly that the camp was occupied. Soon after they had flown back to their own lines, the gun that was shelling the village lengthened its range and started dropping shells close to our camp. At 1.05 pm orders from Brigade were received for the Battalion to move out and take up a defensive position of 3,000 yards in length covering Meteren.

The companies moved out at 1.15 pm C Company leading, the OC (Capt Cooke) being given orders by the Brigade-Major to take up ground with the right of the Company at Hoegenacker Mill, the remainder deploying on a line facing east-south-east. B Company (Capt Allan) was directed to take up ground from the Mill to the southern end of an enclosure, D Company (Capt Avery) prolonging this line to the south-west. These three companies were to be front line. A Company (Capt Carpenter) was held in reserve. When it was No 12 Platoon's turn to move off, we marched up the road towards Meteren and, upon reaching the point where the road curved to the left we saw our Brigadier (Brig-Gen Mayne, 19th Brigade) standing in the doorway of a house on the right of the road. Our officer gave the order 'Eyes right' and saluted. The Brigadier returned the salute and called out something, but I could not catch what he said. It may have been an order to our officer who then led us off the main road and on to a secondary road, leading in a more direct line towards the front. A short distance on we met some horse-drawn limbers coming from the front. The limbers were piled high with baggage, and a number of wounded men were perched precariously on top with others (walking wounded) clinging to the sides and backs of the limbers to be helped along. The drivers were crouched low over the horses' necks, trying to whip up their tired mounts to a canter, and put as great a distance as possible between themselves and the pursuing enemy whom we could not yet see but by the sound of rifle and machine gun fire were not very far away.

We continued marching, crossing the Bailleul-Strazeele road, and a short distance farther on came to a hamlet with a farmhouse on the left side of the road. We went through an open gateway into a meadow, and about 500 or 600 yards away we saw German infantry debouching from a wood and advancing towards us. They evidently saw us at the same time and opened fire. We immediately received the order to deploy and take what cover we could, at the same time returning the enemy's fire. By this time the other three platoons of our Company, Nos 9, 10 and 11, who had preceded us from the camp, had taken up position in a field of young green corn (about six inches high) and were engaged in firing at the enemy to check his advance, at the same time digging in with their entrenching tools as and when opportunity permitted. They had, whilst moving into position, come under enemy machine-gun fire from the Mill but this had been immediately engaged and captured by 2/Lt Russen and eight men.

Our platoon, which was attached to Company Headquarters, was now ordered to move further over to the

right and take up position on a sunken road which would place us about 200 yards in rear of the other three platoons, where we would be able to act as support, and at the same time cover Company Headquarters. This was in a farmhouse about fifty yards away and partially sheltered by a small clump of trees. The time was now approximately 1.45 pm, and as the other two companies came up to the high ground they were to occupy it was found to be held by enemy machine-guns which inflicted a few casualties on them, but both B and D Companies were able to take up their positions and dig in. Lt-Col Kemp-Welch reconnoitred to the flanks and found no formed body of British troops in rear of or on the right flank of the Queen's, and deciding that it was inadvisable to have a flank in the air between Belle Croix Farm and Outersteene, he ordered B Company to find a defensive flank on the right, with one platoon under 2/Lt Denny.

The Battalion was now strung out on a front of 2,100 yards, no touch had been gained on either flank with other British troops, whilst the sole artillery support was provided by two anti-aircraft guns. But the machine-guns of two companies of the 33rd Battalion Machine Gun Corps were disposed behind the 1st Queen's, and rendered valuable service throughout the operations that followed. One company of the 5/6th Scottish Rifles was at 4 pm, ordered by the Brigadier to hold a position astride the Meteren-Bailleul road, and to get connection with the left of the Queen's at the crossroads; but as there was still no touch with any British troops on the right, a platoon under Second-Lieutenant Ashpitel was sent to a bridge on the right, with another platoon under Second-Lieutenant Parkes in support. During the late afternoon and early evening, the enemy attacked in waves several times, but was stopped without difficulty and suffered many casualties.

Night when it arrived was clear and starlit with no moon. During the lulls between the bursts of firing at the front, the night air was very still, and it was possible to hear sounds from quite a long distance. From behind the enemy lines we could hear what sounded like the noises made by gunwheels on the roads, and the hoarse shouts of drivers to their horses, as guns were pulled into new positions ready for the renewal of battle in the morning. Shortly before midnight Captain Cooke and CSM Elderkin when on 'Visiting Rounds', making a short tour of the Company sector of the front line to see the men and give them a few words of encouragement. It was whilst on this duty that CSM Elderkin was unfortunately killed, being shot through the head by an enemy sniper. His body, with those of several others who had been killed during the afternoon, was carried back, sewn up in blankets, and deposited on the bank of the sunken road, where we were on guard duty".

(To be continued)

Memories of 1/6th Queen's in 1940

Mr Ernest Butler, whose service was terminated by wounds at Dunkirk, has been visiting with his wife some of the places in France where the 1/6th Queen's were billeted in 1940. He writes—

"Our first French billet after landing at Cherbourg was at Mezieres near Le Mans. Here we were entertained at the house of the blacksmith and the whole village almost turned out. Our next was at Oissy near Molliens Vidame. The chateau where we were billeted is in ruins now. It will be remembered for the cellar, which contained cider mostly. A guard was mounted by the company of any man found breaking in, with the result each company was caught in turn. The people at the estaminet were there when we were, except for the patron, a very large man with a Jimmy Edwards moustache, who died a few years ago.

Next we went to Pernes where our platoon was billeted with Madam Feitve. She used to have about eight of us in and feed us. Her son Arthur, aged 22, was killed later by the Germans. The people gave us a wonderful reception and we had a job to get away.

We were also at Elsegem near Oudenarde where our Company, A, was dug in in front of the Chateau. My wife and I were taken around by the owner, Chevalier Jacques Scheldekrant, and had to show him all our positions. He is a wonderful man and could not hear too much about the Escaut Battle.

On the way home we called in at Steenwercke where the Battalion had been billeted when we crossed over the frontier on 10th May, 1940. Here we met the Mayor who showed us the replica drum the Queen's had presented when he handed over our Regimental drums. We went back to the Mayor's house and met the doctor and a number of others who had known the Queen's in 1940.

They made us wonderfully at home and nothing was too much trouble to please us. It was a wonderful ending to our holiday."

Battle of Medenine

In April 1972 HQ East Midland District conducted a Battlefield Study in Tunisia on the Battle of Medenine which took place on 6th March, 1943. The text of the exercise has recently been sent to the Queen's Surreys Office, and as the speakers included Major General D. S. Gordon (then BM 131 Inf Bde) and Major E. G. Sandys (Anti-Tank Commander 1/7 Queen's) reliving their experiences on the actual ground, the papers are of exceptional interest.

General Gordon describes not only the bigger picture of 131 Brigade in the battle but also some of the personalities in the Brigade. Major Sandys gives a detailed account of the siting of the anti-tank defences on the 1/7th Queen's front. He recounts the progress of the battle and pays tribute to the gallantry of Sgts Andrew and Crangles and their anti-tank gun crews.

The addresses of the speakers were recorded on the site of the battle, describing what actually happened. Thus the transcript is a vivid personal narrative which is unique in the Regimental Archives.

The Sittang Bend Operation

The last operation of the 1939-45 War in which 1

Queen's was engaged was the clearing of an island some five miles square in the Sittang River. The Regimental History records: "The island was flat with no vegetation except paddy and swamp grass. At this season the only places not knee deep in water were the villages, which were sited on slightly higher ground. No paths were visible in the floods. Patrols could move only one and a half miles an hour by day and a half a mile an hour by night, and found these rates most exhausting. The whole area was infested with buffalo leeches which worked through the men's clothing and caused much loss of blood. Salt, which the men carried in small bags, and burning cigarette ends were used to remove the leeches. So conditions were pretty miserable and the sick rate was high."

The account of the action is well described in the Regimental History and it is not proposed to recount the progress of the operations here. However, the impressions of a member of 136 Field Regiment RA may be of interest to those who were there. Mr Eric Williams who was an OP signaller in support of 1 Queen's for this operation, writes,

"My FOO, Captain Brown and myself accompanied the Queen's on its tour from Letpanthonbin to clear the Foot Bridge and Posabe. This entailed lying up in a village over night, soaking from the day's march in inundated paddy fields. The march continued early in the morning and the Foot Bridge was cleared.

However, as we returned a message came through that the Japs had taken Letpanthonbin during the night. The orders were to retake Letpanthonbin before returning. By now the troops were almost exhausted—it was hell making progress waist deep in paddy water. On reaching the village we set up station behind a rather large tree above the water level. There was much rifle and machine gun fire and the pop of the Japs' machine guns could be recognised.

There was a recorded fire plan, 'Queen 6', which had been laid on some days earlier. Now it was requested and brought into action. There should also have been a strike by the RAF, but unfortunately this did not happen—I never did learn why. The Queen's ran into the attack in single file in the water below the OP occupied by my Captain and myself. They were very tired. One young fellow collapsed in the water and I pulled him out. On opening up this soldier's battle dress he was found to be covered with bloated leeches.

My Captain called from behind the tree that the Japs were running from the village—"Fire your rifle, Williams—go on man." And so I did. However, to my mind things were not going too well with the attack. The Commanding Officer was told that the air strike was off. To this he said, 'We go in with the bullet and the bayonet.' At that he was off into the village—What guts! By now it was getting dark and we approached the village with great caution. I remember going up some steps but nothing more until I awoke with the daylight.

There was much activity. The gallant Queen's were attending to their dead and wounded. After some break-

fast an Alligator arrived and we boarded with some of the wounded. There was a Medical Officer caring for one of them. I think his leg was broken. As the Alligator was without suspension it proved to be an agonising journey, lumbering up and down the paddy buns.

I did not see the Queen's again. I did not know any of their names because our encounter was so brief. It is a long time since this happened, but I will never forget the brave spirit of those days."

Lieut-Colonel J. R. Terry, who was the Commanding Officer at the time, has the following comments on Mr Williams' narrative.

"As a personal account from the FOO signaller's angle it describes the conditions and situation very well. There was a lull after the first phase when the near end of Letpanthonbin had been cleared; and it was quite right that an air strike, I think proposed by Brigade, did not materialise. I reckoned the best thing to do was a hip firing advance with bayonets fixed, inside the village on either side of the through track, and that's what we did.

The only people in that particular 'do' I've seen since are Joe Mullins who called in one day when on leave from India. He still has his tin hat with a Jap bullet hole bang through the middle!—and Nick Mosnicka who came on to Siam and did very well as 1 Queen's Adjutant.

If Mr Williams is in touch with any of his friends in 136 Field Regiment, I would like them all to know how very much we in 1 Queen's appreciated their support on all occasions—it was magnificent.

Also I owe him a special personal thank you for receiving and sending messages for me on his set. It really was good."

Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

"One Man's Ration of War"

The last issue of the News Letter contained excerpts from the diary maintained by Cpl Harold Muggeridge of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War. This further instalment takes the story up to the time the 2nd Surreys left the Western Front for Greece in October 1915.

"23rd August, 1915"

At this time we had, as company sergeant major, one who harassed the troops unceasingly. Even during their brief rest times he would turn them out on some often unnecessary fatigues. In this sector of the Line we sent out men at night to listening posts in old shell holes in no man's land.

One afternoon the CSM was proceeding along the trench upon one of his harassing missions, but some four or five men were 'missing'. He raved, he shouted, he swore, and was about to call the roll when along

came the men he sought. They had been out to the night listening post in no man's land and nearer to the enemy to obtain the sleep which was denied them in their own line, and to cap it all one of them produced a sleeping-out pass he had had when in barracks at home.

"20th September, 1915"

Throughout this sector of the Western front considerable patrol work in no man's land was a feature of the campaign.

This was never a popular duty at the best of times and so much surprise was exhibited when it was noticed that the same three men from a Canadian unit volunteered night after night for this work. Eventually one of their officers was detailed to investigate the men's apparent liking for this duty. Following the men out into no man's land one night, this is what he saw; The men were still there, right enough but their numbers had doubled. Creeping up close, a further surprise awaited him for his patrol were calmly exchanging tins of bully beef for tins of sardines, etc., with an enemy patrol from the Saxon trenches. This with the utmost friendliness and a total disregard for hostilities.

We subsequently heard rumours of a Court Martial in connection with this episode. At least that was the end of the Barter Patrol.

"22nd September, 1915"

Sgt G. Gibbs from another Coy came to us as CSM, bringing with him the reputation of being something of a 'martinet'. From a first understanding talk with the men, however, he became likeable, and eventually most popular with all. 'On parade, on parade; off parade, off parade,' was his motto.

"26th September, 1915"

As we marched through Beuvry we passed HRH the Prince of Wales with a battalion of the Guards. Our CO was Lt-Colonel F. S. Montague Bates, Captain Muller was our OC Coy and the platoon officers were Lieuts Dowler, Sands, Dell and Chandler. At 2 p.m. we were ordered to the Line to counter attack and re-take Fosse 8. Hastily finishing our meal we moved off through Vermelles town. Ear-splitting sounds from the incessant firing of our own batteries at this spot and the counter-shelling by the enemy. Had great difficulty in getting through the communication trench, stepping over dead and wounded. Frequently recurring delays. Messages frequently passing. About turns and about turns. Eventually we climbed over the side and went along the top, in open exposed ground, as the only means of progress for the last stage of the journey. We reached Hohenzollern Redoubt about 6 p.m. to relieve the 73rd Brigade. Under the greatest of difficulties we had to take over. Owing to so much heavy fighting the units in the line were very intermingled. Some Cameron Highlanders in our trench were so dead tired that they fell asleep at our feet, after being relieved, and did not leave the line until nearly dawn next morning.

"27th September, 1915"

In the front line at Hohenzollern Redoubt, Loos. Heavy shelling. Incessant hand-bombing, the enemy trenches being only a few yards away and we were

therefore able to see them quite plainly. Owing to the great confusion experienced in the relief last evening, our Brigade was unable to attack until 9.30 this morning, when the leading battalion at once drove Germans out of some of the trenches of the Redoubt and consolidated the Line. Messages passed every few minutes. Ammunition and bombs were being passed up as fast as we could handle them. Our platoon commander, Lieut Chandler was killed on the fire step. I had been next to him a moment or so previously. There were no dug-outs in the immediate vicinity of our trench, but there was no time for sleep had there been any cover. Owing to the exigencies of the battle, undistributed rations were lying in heaps at intervals along the trench. Here I had my first taste of the famous Machonochie Ration. This was a mixture of good meat and several vegetables together, in a sealed tin, ready for heating. On this occasion I was glad to get the chance to eat one cold. The situation was so critical that wounded and dead had, for the time being, to be left just where they fell. Spare equipment and rifles were lying all over the place.

"28th September, 1915"

The 85th Brigade continued its attack on Fosse 8. After desperate fighting, practically the whole of this position was captured, but most of the Brigade were driven back again by 2 p.m. I saw our Lieut Sands winning his VC. Indifferent to both bombs and rifle fire of the enemy, he stood on the lip of a crater, urging men on, and although wounded, continued to throw bombs himself. Lieut Dowler was equally cool in similar work, but I have never heard of a decoration for him in respect of this engagement.

"17th October, 1915"

Left Robecque at 8 a.m. and marched via the banks of the La Bassée Canal to Hinges. On this march the bad boy of the Company so provoked the CSM that the latter resorted to an old-fashioned form of correction by boxing the lad's ears. Thus was the orderly room spared one 'case', by justice being administered on the spot.

"21st October, 1915"

Entrained at Fouqueril Garde. 40 men to a van. Passed through Amiens during the night en route for Marseilles."

This concludes the second extract from Cpl Muggeridge's diary. The 2nd Battalion, after a short stay in Egypt, proceeded to Greece and the diary continues with the story of life on the Struma Valley Front. If there is any demand for the further experiences of Cpl Muggeridge, who, incidentally was a cousin of Mr Malcolm Muggeridge, a further extract from the diary will be published in the next News Letter.

The later story is not particularly eventful, but it gives a picture of what life in the ranks was like in that theatre of war. If readers would like to hear more of Cpl Muggeridge's narrative, please let the Editor know.

Tiger Patrol

This was the stirring title given by the Japanese to a film they made after the occupation of Malaya with

the help (?) of British prisoners of war. A number of soldiers of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment were cast for the role of "enemy", and were supposed to run away in panic at the sight of a Jap patrol. However, the Surreys by subtle fooling around made such a nonsense of the film that when it was shown in Singapore with a tremendous propaganda flourish of trumpets the audience split their sides with laughing and the film was never shown again.

This incident has come to light through the Rev L. H. Morrison, Chaplain of Charterhouse School. Mr Morrison, who at that time was 2/Lt Leonard Morrison, 1st Perak Bn, Federated Malay States Volunteer Force, is trying to get in touch with some of the men involved in "that extraordinary little enterprise in which I shared with 45 East Surreys and 45 Loyals and four other officers the rather perverse joy of subtly sabotaging a Japanese propaganda film, entitled, I think, 'Tiger Patrol'. The film making party left Pudu Gaol, Kuala Lumpur about October 1942 and arrived at Changi Gaol, Singapore about early December.

"My memory for names is awful, but I do remember two East Surreys particularly well—Sgt Bill Harrison and Pte 'Froggy' Freeman. Will any other East Surreys who remember this expedition please contact me to give me his ideas of what happened in those remarkable six or eight weeks of film-making? I developed an affection and admiration for the East Surreys at this time which I have never lost."

Mr Morrison's address is
Rev L. H. Morrison
Sutton Cottage
Charterhouse Road
Godalming
Surrey.
Telephone: Godalming 6421.

Chapels and Memorials

Major General J. Y. Whitfield

A bronze memorial plaque to the memory of Major General J. Y. Whitfield, the last Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment, was installed in the entrance to The Queen's Royal Regiment Chapel within Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, in March 1973. The plaque will be dedicated by the Rector of Holy Trinity, the Reverend Canon Michael Hocking, at a short service on Sunday, 17th June, 1973, commencing at 3.15 pm, the same day as the Regimental Association Annual Service in Guildford Cathedral. It is expected that the Chaplain-General, the Venerable Archdeacon J. R. Youens, CB, OBE, MC, Chaplain to The Queen, will also be present.

The Lych-gate at Bassingbourn Barracks

In the November 1972 News Letter we reported that Major Ron Esler, Quartermaster at HQ FARELF, Singapore, had arranged to ship home the lych-gate from St George's Church, Tanglin. We are indebted to the Divisional Depot for the following account of its re-erection.

In September 1972 a small open sided shelter with a tiled roof supported by dark timber uprights and wooden seats along two of its sides was erected outside Depot Headquarters at Depot The Queen's Division Bassingbourn Barracks by workmen of the Department of the Environment. In the distance it does not look very impressive. However a closer inspection will reveal a gilded inscription carved in gothic letters along the beams on which the roof rests. "To the glory of God", it reads, "and in memory of those who laid down their lives for their King and Country". A small plaque on the side post reveals how it was originally made by prisoners of war of the Japanese belonging to the 18th Division who erected it in 1942 at the entrance to the cemetery at Changi Prison, Singapore, where they were to bury nearly 600 of their dead. When the cemetery was cleared after the war and the dead re-interred elsewhere, the lych-gate was removed and re-erected outside St George's Garrison Church in Tanglin, Singapore. In April 1971 during the run down of the British Garrison in Singapore the gate was dismantled and shipped back to England. Now it has been re-assembled in East Anglia at Bassingbourn. It is one of the few surviving relics of a remarkable upsurge of Christian faith that took place among the men who were imprisoned in Singapore during the Japanese occupation. It will now serve as a memorial to the men who comprised the 18th Division, in particular those who died in Changi, and as a reminder of the power of faith in God in those dark and terrible days.

It is hoped to hold a reunion at the Depot for all those involved in the construction of the gate and an appeal for survivors of those far off days has already borne fruit. Members of 18th Division Royal Engineers responsible for the lych-gate have been located and with the help of the Far East Prisoner-of-War Club it is hoped to trace many more.

British Military Cemetery in Khartoum

Colonel H. C. Millman, who is the Chief Instructor at the Staff College, Khartoum, attended the Annual Remembrance Day Service in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery there. He writes,

"I thought I noticed some familiar badges in the distance and determined to go back one day and make a check."

I have since done this and come across the graves of the following former members of the Regiment:

The Queen's Royal Regiment
Pte L. A. Brumming—3rd January, 1927.
Pte C. Coward—27th September, 1927.
Pte E. M. Perrett—24th May, 1927.
The East Surrey Regiment
Capt E. G. Lawton—12th April, 1918.

I am pleased to record that in the best traditions of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission the Cemetery is very well kept and the headstones well maintained. It is now the best time of year here and the hibiscus, oleander, bougainvilia and so on are in full bloom. These abound and combine to make this little cemetery a very peaceful and beautiful little sanctuary for these late members of our Regiment.

This information may be of interest to friends and relations of these departed husbands, sons or comrades."

Editor's Note

Captain E. G. Lawton, a pre-War Regular officer in The East Surrey Regiment, had been wounded at the Battle of the Marne in September 1914. He died of wounds received while serving with the Camel Corps of the Egyptian Army. He was the brother of the late Major K. L. S. Lawton who was wounded in both World Wars.

The three soldiers were in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Leonard Arthur Brumming (6082678) was admitted to the Civil Hospital at Port Sudan on the arrival of the Battalion from India on 1st January, 1927. Edmund Mower Perrett (6081050) died in Khartoum at the age of 22.

Our Allied Regiments

Australia

On 27th April, 1973, the Queen's Surreys Office was visited by Lt-Col J. F. Hodgson, ED, Commanding 2nd Bn The Royal New South Wales Regiment, our Allied Australian Regiment. Col Hodgson visited the Regimental Museum and was pleased to see the display of badges and insignia of the City of Newcastle Regiment, formerly allied to The Queen's Royal Regiment.

London's Citizen Soldiers

The National Army Museum staged an exhibition in February and March entitled "London's Citizen Soldiers". The exhibition, which was opened by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer on 19th February, told the story of part-time soldiering in the capital from the raising of the trained bands in 1537 up to today's TAVR. As one of the Regiments closely associated with voluntary soldiering in and around London, we were invited by the National Army Museum to lend certain items from our Regimental Museum for the exhibition.

The following items were selected for display in the exhibition of "London's Citizen Soldiers".

1. Centres of Colours of the Newington Surry Volunteers and Loyal Volunteers of St John's Southwark, Circa 1799.

These units eventually became the 4th (Volunteer) Bn The East Surrey Regiment, and, on the formation of the Territorial Army in 1908, assumed the title of the 23rd London Regiment.

2. Medals of Lt-Col A. D. Borton, VC, CMG, DSO.

Colonel Arthur Borton, commanding the 2nd Bn The 22 London Regiment, was awarded the Victoria Cross "For most conspicuous bravery and leadership" in 1917. The case contains Colonel Borton's VC, CMG, DSO,

Queen's South Africa Medal (3 bars), 1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Russian Order of St Vladimir (with swords) 5th Class and Order of the Nile 3rd Class.

Back Numbers of News Letters

Wanted

We should be glad to have copies of the following News Letters:

No 2 Nov 1967
No 9 May 1971
No 10 Nov 1971

Available

The following are available free of charge, but a 3p stamp is requested.

No 1 May 1967 No 6 Nov 1969
No 3 May 1968 No 7 May 1970
No 4 Nov 1968 No 8 Nov 1970
No 5 May 1969 No 12 Nov 1972

Items for Sale

The inclusion of an order form with the last News Letter proved very popular and will be repeated in November this year.

However, it is not necessary to wait for the order form before submitting requests. Applications for Regimental Histories, Queen's Regiment ties, Christmas cards, etc, may be sent at any time.

Round the World Sailing Race

This year there is to be a Round the World sailing race which is open to large single-hulled ocean racing yachts with a crew of not less than five. The race starts from Portsmouth on 8th September, 1973, and is divided into four legs with stops to change over crews at Cape Town, Sydney and Rio de Janeiro.

The British Army is to enter this race in the yacht *British Steel* which Chay Blyth sailed round the world. Major John T. Day, who joined the Regiment in 1954 has been selected to skipper the yacht in the first leg of the race.

As British Steel was specifically designed for single-handed sailing she requires a major conversion to suit her for a crew of nine for this race. The cost of conversion, refit, sails and administration costs will be over £20,000 which has to be raised privately. The Committee of Management is hoping there will be a number of people both in the Army and outside who would wish to contribute to this very worthwhile venture. Donations, however small, will be very welcome and should

be sent to the Team Manager, Major A. N. Carlier, RE, Office of FOCAS, Fort Southwick, Farnham, Hants. Cheques should be made payable to "Army round the world Yacht Race".

Regular Forces Employment Association

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service, and its object is to find suitable employment for men and women when they leave the Services and in the years thereafter. It is registered as a charity and draws its income from Public Funds and from the Services Benevolent Welfare Organisations.

Its services are available to all who have not held commissioned rank in the Regular Forces and who leave with a character of "Good" or better after three years service or who have been invalided from the Services before completing three years.

The Association works in close co-operation with the Services, the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Employment, and operates through 43 Branches covering the United Kingdom, each of which is run by an Employment Officer who has been in the Service himself and is in close touch with local employers.

The Association is at your service and all its services are free. The addresses and telephone numbers of its Branches can be obtained from the Regimental Association, from Post Offices and from Employment Exchanges.

Deaths

We regret to announce the passing of the following former members of our Regiments:

Heron In 1972, L/Cpl Patrick John Heron (6140685), The East Surrey Regiment. Served in the 2nd Battalion from 1938 to 1946, and was a prisoner of war in Japanese hands.

Percival In November, 1972, Lt Sidney Percival, aged 75. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1940 to 1942, having served in The Cheshire Regiment in the 1914-18 War.

Evans In December, 1972, L/Cpl Horace Percival Evans (6076429), aged 72. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1923.

Oliver On 9th December, 1972, CSM Thomas Oliver (7815439), aged 69. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1919 to 1945.

Adams On 10th December, 1972, Lt Col Paul Adams, CB, TD, aged 69. Served in 24th London Regiment (The Queen's) (later the 7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA)) from 1922 until 1947. See obituary.

Akers On 19th December, 1972, Sgt John Henry Akers (6076920), aged 78. Served in the 24th London Regiment (The Queen's) from August 1914 to 1919 when he enlisted as a Regular in The Queen's. He then served in the 2nd Battalion until 1937. Jack Akers who will be remembered as a patient kindly

man was a member of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association.

Rogers In January, 1973, C/Sgt Ernest Rogers (6137637), aged 68. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1927 to 1935 and from 1939 to 1944.

Edmonds On 3rd January, 1973, Pte Frank Edgar Edmonds (6137202), aged 67. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1925 to 1933 and in The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) from 1937 to 1939.

Choules On 9th January, 1973, Sgt William Choules (6136077), age 67. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1924 to 1935 and in the Military Police until 1945.

Stanbridge On 17th January, 1973, Cpl William Stanbridge (6078253), aged 70. Served in the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment. See obituary.

Catling On 5th February, 1973, Sgt Geoffrey A. Catling. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1940 to 1946. He served in the 1st Battalion from North Africa to Greece, first in a rifle company, then as a signaller and finally in the Orderly Room, where he became Orderly Room Sergeant.

Carey On 23rd February, 1973, Lt Colonel John James Carey, MBE, aged 71. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1921 to 1949. See obituary.

Lovell On 17th March, 1973, Lt Frederick William Lovell, MC, aged 88. Joined the HAC in 1915 and was transferred to The East Surrey Regiment. Served in the 8th Surreys and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry at Ronsoy in September, 1918.

Meins In April, 1973, Pte Harry Meins, aged 64. Served in the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in May, 1940, and was wounded and taken prisoner at Crombeke.

Regimental Families

We also announce with regret the deaths of the under-mentioned ladies:

Lawrence On 22nd January, 1973, Miss Edith Madeline Lawrence, aged 68, elder daughter of the late Colonel H. D. Lawrence, CMG, The East Surrey Regiment.

Barrow On 1st February, 1973, Mrs Evelyn Barrow, widow of Major David de Symons Barrow, M.C, The Queen's Royal Regiment, who died of wounds in 1944.

Du Vernet-Davis On 17th March, 1973, Mrs Doreen Du Vernet-Davis, widow of Major T. A. Du Vernet-Davis, The East Surrey Regiment, who died in March, 1967.

Obituaries

Captain J. C. Druce

A memorial service for the late Captain John Druce, whose death was reported in the last News Letter, was held at the Innholders Hall in the City on 2nd January, 1973. Mr F. P. J. Glover, MC, who was Intelligence Officer of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment when Captain Druce was adjutant, writes:

"He was a stalwart whose companionship and courage during my service with the '31st' during 1916/18 will ever

remain a heart warming memory and I was proud to be among the goodly company assembled to give thanks for his life and work."

Lt Col Paul Adams, CB, TD

Died on the 10th December, 1972, at the age of 69. He had the distinction of commanding five different infantry battalions and a HAA Regiment, but he is affectionately remembered as the Commanding Officer of the 1/7th Bn (Southwark) The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) which was a popular appointment in February, 1938.

Endowed with a tall upright figure and a handsome and dignified, somewhat retiring presence, he had a keen eye, was a very good listener and had a trained legal mind which enabled him to make sound conclusions, which he gave in a pleasant authoritative manner. His sense of humour was ever present and he was a fine example of a gentleman and officer tremendously enthusiastic and competent in any task he undertook, particularly his duties as a volunteer officer in the TA for which he received the TD and three bars.

At Haileybury from 1917 to 1921 he played in the First Cricket XI and also represented the School at racquets and fives, quite apart from being a very good rugger player.

Originally commissioned with the 24th London Regiment in 1922, he served with great devotion until February 1940 when he relinquished the rank of Lt Col at his own request and was re-appointed as 2 i/c to Lt Col G. A. Pilleau, MC (later Major Gen. Pilleau, CBE, MC) in accordance with the policy of having Commanding Officers in the BEF with Regular service or 1914/18 war experience. Despite this set back to his career he continued to serve with great spirit for the benefit of the 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and took part in the retreat from Dunkirk.

In July 1941 he was promoted Lt Col with seniority February 1938 and commanded the 15th Queen's and on the disbandment of this Battalion he commanded the 13th Queen's, which was followed by command of the 2nd Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment in November 1943. Itching to get abroad on active service he accepted command of the 13th Infantry Bn in the Sudan Defence Force in November 1943 and to his great disappointment was unable to join the fighting in operational theatres. Never had anyone tried as hard as Paul Adams to achieve his ambition to lead a battalion in battle.

After demobilisation in 1946 one would have thought he had done enough, but when it was decided to re-form the TA, back he went to the Drill Hall in Braganza Street, Southwark, to command and form 622 (Queen's) HAA RA (TA) which succeeded the 1/7th Queen's.

He was known and respected throughout the legal profession as a Solicitor and from 1950 as a Taxing Master of the Supreme Court. From 1954 until he retired in 1972 he held the Chief Mastership of the Supreme Court Taxing Office, during which he introduced a number of great improvements related to taxation of costs in Court cases, which are still in being.

The Lord Chancellor recognised his abilities and from 1958 to 1971 he served on Working Parties and the Legal Aid Advisory Committee. In 1965 his knowledge of the armed services and legal profession fitted him to be Chairman of the Ministry of Defence Committee, on pay and career structure of the Army and RAF Legal Services. Recognition of his tremendous services was finally accorded in 1971 when he was appointed a CB, but there were many outspoken views in legal magazines at the time, which thought this award was inadequate.

Invariably present at the OCA Annual Dinners and Committee meetings he was Vice-President of the Queen's

(Southwark) Regimental Association and for over twenty years read the Lesson in St. Mary's Church, Kennington, on Remembrance Sunday Parade. His influence and advice will be impossible to replace.

After such a distinguished career he fully deserved to pursue his hobbies of fly fishing for trout and the growing of roses, but there was not enough time given to him for these recreations.

W.D.G.

Colonel L. C. East, DSO, OBE, writes,

"It is with regret that I read of the death of Paul Adams, and I should like to pay tribute to his memory as one of the distinguished band of pre-war Territorials who did so much for, and were an integral part of, the Regiment.

I never served under nor in fact with him, but for several years alongside him when I was at the Depot and later a Territorial adjutant. He was always most friendly and co-operative to a breed of Regular soldier, often regarded by the Territorial as a necessary evil!"

Footnote by Editor

Colonel Paul Adams wrote the obituary of his brother, Louis, in the last News Letter and it is indeed sad that this issue should contain his own.

W. J. Stanbridge

After a long illness, William John Stanbridge died on 17th January, 1973. It was in 1971 that he and his wife were involved in a car accident while on a zebra crossing in South Norwood, which resulted in the unfortunate death of Mrs Stanbridge and serious injuries to Bill himself from which he never fully recovered. He was in and out of hospital for many months and towards the end of 1972 was admitted to Mayday Hospital, Croydon, then moved to Queen's Hospital, Croydon, where, shortly after, he died, aged 70.

He enlisted in the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and was later transferred into the 2nd Bn. During this period of 1919-1929 he saw service in Northern Ireland, Egypt and India. When "time-expired" he joined the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) and subsequently became a member of their Old Comrades Association.

Paul Shonfeld.

Lt Col J. J. Carey, MBE

"Mutt" Carey, who joined The East Surrey Regiment from Sandhurst in 1921, spent most of his pre-war service with the 2nd Battalion. From October 1930 he was Adjutant of the Regimental Depot for three years, and from 1936 to 1938 with the 1st Battalion in India and the Sudan, where later he joined the staff of HQ British Troops Sudan, with which he remained until 1941. After brief service in Eritrea he joined in 1943 the staff of Brigadier Norman Brading in North West Europe. In November 1946, after a short spell in India he moved to the BAOR, where he held staff appointments until his retirement in 1949.

For service in the Middle East 1939-40 he was mentioned in despatches, and for service in the D-day operations was made a MBE.

Mutt was an excellent soldier in both peace and war—a leader who was always sound, calm and highly regarded by all ranks. Cheerful in all conditions, good or bad, he was always ready to help anyone in need—a very popular officer.

In athletics he represented his unit in cricket, hockey and cross-country running.